

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1-20. (canceled)

21. (currently amended) A process for ~~treating~~ improving the appearance of the skin, comprising the steps of:

- a) ~~pre-treating~~ initially applying retinoic acid to the skin with topical retinoic acid;
- b) ~~producing a chronic wound in the high dermis of the skin by~~ exploding a contaminant on the surface of the skin with laser light having a pulse duration of about 0.001 to about 1 microsecond leaving the epidermis intact, wherein said contaminant is capable of absorbing said laser light;
- c) ~~treating~~ applying retinoic acid to the skin 4 to 16 times per month chronically with said retinoic acid after step b) ~~producing said chronic wound~~; and
- d) ~~maintaining the high dermis in a chronically wounded condition through a plurality of wounding events by exploding a contaminant on the surface of the skin with laser light at least once every twelve months, keeping the wound from healing~~ repeating step b) at least once every 12 months during step c), wherein steps c) and d) maintain an improved and youthful appearing skin.

22. (canceled)

23. (currently amended) The process of claim 22 21 wherein the step of initially applying retinoic acid to ~~pre-treating the skin with retinoic acid~~ comprises two weeks.

24. (currently amended) The process of claim ~~22~~ 21 wherein exploding a contaminant on the surface of the face skin with laser light is completed within about two to ten minutes.
25. (currently amended) The process of claim 24 wherein exploding a contaminant on the surface of the face skin with laser light is completed within about four minutes.
26. (currently amended) The process of claim ~~22~~ 21 wherein the step of ~~producing a chronic wound in the high dermis comprises~~ exploding a contaminant on the surface of the skin with laser light after initially applying retinoic acid to the skin is performed two to twelve times within a six month period ~~after pre-treating the skin with retinoic acid.~~
27. (currently amended) The process of claim 26 wherein the step of ~~producing a chronic wound in the high dermis comprises~~ exploding a contaminant on the surface of the skin with laser light after initially applying retinoic acid to the skin is performed six times within a six month period ~~after pre-treating the skin with retinoic acid.~~
28. (currently amended) The process of claim ~~22~~ 21 wherein said laser light has a wave length of from about 800nm to 1200nm, a pulse frequency of from about 1 to 20 per second, a ~~pulse duration of from about 0.001 to 1 microsecond,~~ and a fluence of from about 1 to 3 J/cm².
29. (original) The process of claim 28 wherein said laser light has a wave length of about 1064nm, a pulse frequency of about 10 per second, a pulse duration of about 0.01 microsecond, and a fluence of about 2.5 J/cm².
- 30-32. (canceled)
33. (currently amended) The process of claim ~~22~~ 21 wherein said retinoic acid is applied topically at a concentration of from about 0.05% to 1%.

34. (original) The process of claim 33 wherein said retinoic acid is applied topically at a concentration of about 0.1%.

35. (currently amended) The process of claim ~~22~~ 21 wherein said ~~method~~ process is used to rejuvenate the skin and to remove broken blood vessels, angiomas, scars, lines, wrinkles, pigmentation, and redness in the skin.

36. (currently amended) The process of claim ~~22~~ 21 wherein said ~~method~~ process is used ~~to~~ treat on acne, warts, cold sores, eczema, psoriasis, and infections of the skin.

37. (original) The process of claim 29 wherein said laser light is produced by a Q-switched Nd:YAG laser.